



THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
OCTOBER 10, 1971

China Today

60 years after



INTRODUCTION

By Lin Yutang

Man is living in an age of turbulence and changing spiritual values, a period of profound changes. Scientific discoveries are made so fast, advances in communication and speed of travel so great that the world must make desperate attempts for readjustment.

The total effect is not good for us. It is too unsettling for peace of mind. And when we need a philosophy of living most, we don't seem to have it.

It is surely a comment on this present world that everybody is talking about "security"—political security, social security, international security and personal security. We know too many things and are sure of too few things.

It seems to me that philosophy is the study of relative values, and separating the nonessentials from the essentials of living. A typewriter speeds up work. But does a typewriter make good writers? Running water is a blessing, but Goethe and Schiller washed from an earthen jug and basin and wrote pretty well. Does TV make better children, better-thinking children?

It is all right for academic philosophy to be lost in speculative nonsense, such as the relation between knowledge and reality — "Is reality real?" — but it is difficult to find a demonstrable relation to common life. I like William James because he speaks of his "raids into philosophy." He considers common life — a day in Saratoga, for instance — his real feeding ground, and only conducts raids into philosophy to find out what he can get out of it. His mind was far too curious for it to be shut up behind the gray plastered walls of philosophy.

This humanistic outlook is essentially Chinese. Chinese humanism means a just concept of the ends of life, and a sharp focus on the true end of living. It means a system of thought which is man-centered, concerned with the central problem of man's life, and the moral relationships between men. This heritage is a living, cultural force, a capacity for creative activity in art, literature and social progress.

Let us take a look at how it is manifest in the lives of the people of the Republic of China today.

Asia's First Republic



60 years ago,
Dr. Sun Yat-sen founded
the Republic of China

OCTOBER 10TH this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Republic of China. Its founding father is Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Born in 1866 in a farming village in Kwangtung province, Sun Yat-sen was 13 years old when he joined an elder brother in Hawaii. Upon his return to China, Sun was impatient with traditional beliefs and practices. He was eager for change in China. Traveling widely, he recruited followers and solicited funds from Chinese living in Southeast Asia, Japan and the Western world.

In 1894 Sun Yat-sen made an unsuccessful attempt to present a memorial to Viceroy Li Hung-chang urging reforms. The following year came the Japanese victory over China, followed by Sun's first effort at rebellion in Canton. From then he made many more attempts.

In 1911 when the Manchu Ching Dynasty finally fell, Sun Yat-sen became a national hero. On January 1, 1912, the Republic of China was proclaimed, and Dr. Sun elected its provisional president. Thus, the first republic in Asia came into being.

Soon after, Sun, in the hope of achieving national unity, resigned in favor of ambitious warlord Yuan Shih-kai. Yuan attempted to proclaim himself emperor a few years later. After his death in 1916, China was divided by the despotic rule of warlords. Sun Yat-sen set up a government in Canton, and found supporters in students, merchants and workers of the modern cities.

to whom he symbolized the new spirit of nationalism. Dr. Sun devoted his life to the establishment of a government based upon his Three Principles of the People—"Nationalism," "Democracy," and "People's Livelihood."

When he died in 1925, Dr. Sun left a last testament which became his legacy to modern China. Unity of the country was still to be achieved, and he urged his followers to carry on his work. It remained for his disciple Chiang Kai-shek to complete the task. In 1927, Chiang led the northward expedition from Canton to Peiping. Warlords were defeated, and an undisputed central government established at Nanking.

The enormous task of industrializing a country of 4.4 million square miles began. In spite of Japanese seizure of China's rich provinces in the northeast in 1931, great progress was made. The government declared war on the warlords who were left, on drugs which had victimized China for over a century, on poverty, illiteracy, and on communism.

Then came the Sino-Japanese war. From 1937 to 1945, the nation was engaged in a life-and-death struggle with her eastern neighbor.

When V-J Day came, China had lost three million soldiers in battle. She was ravaged, bled white, but full of hope. Although the communist threat was growing, the Republic adopted a model constitution, established parliamentary bodies by direct suffrage, and chose Chiang Kai-shek as the

first constitutional President.

China became a charter member of the United Nations, and contributed much to its creation. In subsequent years, she has been constant in upholding the basic principles and objectives of the UN charter.

The Chinese communists, however, soon launched an all-out attack. When they took over the mainland in 1949, President Chiang led his loyal followers to Taiwan and made it the seat of the government. The island of 14,000 square miles had been ceded to Japan in 1895 as a consequence of the first Sino-Japanese war. It was returned to the Republic of China at the end of World War II. Reconstruction began in 1945, and was expedited with the influx of mainland manpower and know-how.

Dr. Sun's Three Principles were not forgotten. Township, city and county governments, as well as the legislative branch of the provincial government, were made elective. Land reform was begun to create an agriculture prosperous enough to provide raw materials, capital and purchasing power for industrialization. As a result, nearly 92 per cent of Taiwan's farmers became owners or part-owners of the land they tilled.

Today, Taiwan has been rebuilt from a bombed-out island to be one of the richest and most progressive places in Asia.

At 60, Asia's first republic is vibrantly young. The Republic of China looks ahead.

The National Palace Museum

One of the world's great museums gives you a breath-taking view of Chinese art through the centuries

THE NATIONAL PALACE MUSEUM, nestling against scenic Grass Mountain in the outskirts of Taipei, houses the world's largest and most precious collection of Chinese art treasures. 250,000 pieces of painting, calligraphy, porcelains, bronzes, jades, sculptures, books and historical documents, tapestry and embroidery. It combines the collections of the former National Palace Museum in Peking and Central Museum in Nanking.

The present Museum was built in 1965. In March, 1970, it completed an expansion project which increased total floor space to 171,396 square feet. Display rooms now occupy a total of 99,720 square feet. 8,000 items are on display at a time. Exhibits are changed every three months. According to Chiang Fu-tzung, curator of the Museum, it will take ten years to exhibit all the Museum's treasures.

Bronzes

Chinese bronzes were prevalent in the Shang and Chou dynasties. Bronze was used to make weapons



Steamer (Yen)
Western Chou Dynasty
(1122-722 B.C.)



*Rectangular Wine Vessel (Fang-i)
Shang Dynasty
(1766-1122 B.C.)*



*Wine Vessel (Hsi tsun)
Spring and Autumn or
Warring States period
(722-481 B.C.) or
(403-246 B.C.)*



*Covered-jar (Kai kuan)
Kang-hsi ware (1662-1722)
Ching Dynasty (1644-1911)*

as well as musical instruments. Bronze vessels were used in ceremonial rites.

The quality of the vessels deteriorated during Later Chou Dynasty. After Han Dynasty, less attention was paid to ornamentation, and white copper was used instead of green. Bronze vessels were cast in every dynasty after Chin and Han. However, none equaled the beauty and delicacy of that of Shang and Chou.

The Museum possesses more than 4,000 items of bronze-ware, many dating back 30 centuries.

Porcelain

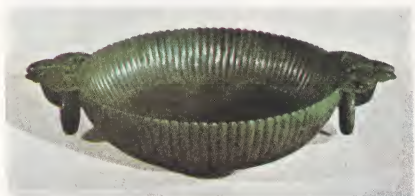
Pottery and porcelain originated in China. The National Palace Museum porcelain collec-



*Vase (Chih)
Kang-hsi ware (1662-1722)
Ching Dynasty (1644-1911)*



*Dark Green Jade Flower Holder (Hua Cha)
Ching Dynasty (1644-1911)*



*Dark Green Jade Brush Washer (Hsi)
Ching Dynasty (1644-1911)*

tion totals about 25,000 pieces.

In the New Stone Age, ancient Chinese began to make pottery, and pottery ware became daily utensils. Porcelain reached the height of production in Sung Dynasty. It was called green porcelain because its color was turquoise as the sky, its surface clear as a mirror, and it was thin as paper. When struck, it gave out a tinkling sound. In Ching Dynasty, people attempted to imitate the production of this kind of porcelain, but failed.

Ching-te-chen in Kiangsi province was an important place for producing porcelain ware. Most of the porcelain produced during Ming and Ching dynasties were made there. Hence, Ching-te-chen porcelain is world famous.

Jade

Jade, lustrous and bright, is defined in *Shuowen* (說文) as "the fairest of stones." For thousands of years, China has been famous for jade carving, the method having evolved from stone carving.

There are three kinds of jade objects: tallies used in the court; cere-

monial jades; and ordinary jade for decoration, for inlaid work and for burial.

Jade is also widely used by the Chinese for ornamentation, and many families had a piece of heirloom jade, which was passed from one generation to another because it is believed to bring good health and good luck.

The Museum has 3,894 pieces of jade.

Calligraphy

The ancient philosophers included calligraphy as one of the six arts. Writing which originally served purely for the recording and transmission of information gradually became the object of aesthetic appreciation and the subject of an individual's cultivation.

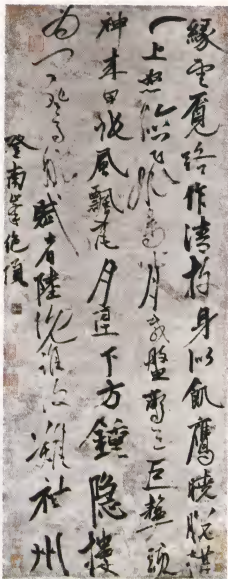
The structure of each Chinese character presents an artistic challenge. In the hands of a calligraphist, the simple writing brush is capable of infinite variety of expression.

Under Chinese influence, calligraphy as an art form spread to Japan and Korea, where it is also practiced enthusiastically.

The collection of calligraphy in the National Palace Museum is a selection of magnificent items covering the length and breadth of the art's development. All the important calligraphers are represented.

Painting

Painting is a traditional art which expresses the spirit and culture of the Chinese people.



Seven Syllable Regulated Verse
by Chang Yu, Yuan Dynasty (1277-1368)



Tiger by a painter
in Yuan Dynasty (1277-1368)



Chrysanthemum by Shen Chou,
Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

Chinese painting is generally divided by subject matter into figures, landscapes, flowers and birds, bamboos and rocks. Before Han Dynasty, there was already a tradition of portrait painting.

During Tang Dynasty, although figures continued to be the principal subject matter of many leading painters, landscape painting began to develop, and became the central stream of Chinese painting.

The succeeding Northern Sung Dynasty has often been called the Golden Age of Chinese landscape. The differences in approach and technique gave rise to two schools of painting, the "Northern" and "Southern" schools.

Li Ssu-hsun and his son originated the "Northern" school, and were renowned for their skill in a richly colored landscape style, using blue, green and gold pigments. Their style showed a firm and precise technique. Brush lines were accentuated and coloring was thick.

Wang Wei, the founder of the "Southern" school, is credited with originating the ink-wash, *shui-mo*, style. His paintings were filled with gracious harmony and great subtlety in the use of brush and ink. Su Shih, a great poet as well as a famous painter, said of his work, "in the poem is a painting, in the painting is a poem." This philosophic remark became a foundation stone of the literati painting tradition.



"Ilha Formosa" — the Island Beautiful



A residential area of Taipei

FROM THE AIR, the traveler sees a string of golden beaches, rolling mountains, meandering rivers, green paddies and rows of pineapple and banana trees.

"Ilha Formosa!"

Indeed, some half a million tourists who flew into Taiwan last year were spellbound by the unspoiled beauty of the island. Interviewed at the airport before departure, almost half of the tourists rated Taiwan's natural scenery as the most memorable impression of their visit.

Taiwan is one of the top sightseeing stops of Asia. There are modern hotels, restaurants and department stores all over the island. The tourist dollar amounted to some US\$80 million last year.

Taiwan may be divided into five sightseeing zones. Each is unique in its beauty.

A tour of all five zones takes five to seven days, but you can do any of them from Taipei in two. Scores of travel agencies offer all-inclusive package tours at very low rates.

1. The Taipei Area This is the most heavily traveled zone. Taipei, the largest city of Taiwan, has a population of 1.8 million. Its setting is picturesque: a ring of verdant hills traversed by three gentle-flowing rivers. Top attractions are the art treasures of the National Palace Museum, the Lungshan and Confucius Temples, the 2,000-foot floral park at Yangmingshan, the hot sulfur springs at Peitou, the aborigine villages at Wulai and the contorted sandstone formations at Yehliu.

2. Hualien and the East Coast This is the pineapple and sugar cane country, and the home of the Ami aborigines. Here, you see one of the great wonders of the world – the marble canyon of Taroko Gorge. Rising 3,000 feet into the sky, the towering cliffs create a canyon so narrow that at certain places, unless the sun is directly overhead, its rays never reach the swirling waters at the bottom. The 12-mile gorge has numerous waterfalls, suspension bridges and tunnels. Another unforgettable ex-

perience is a ride on the scenic Suao-Hualien Highway. On one side of the road are precipitous coastal mountains, and on the other the Pacific at the bottom of a steep drop.

3. The Sun-Moon Lake Area This is a honeymooner's paradise. Nestled in the Central Range 2,500 feet up, serene, romantic Sun-Moon Lake has to be seen to be believed. A jewel set among green hills, the Lake offers sight-



Nestled 2,500 feet up in the Central Range, serene Sun-Moon Lake is a honeymooner's paradise



Marble bridge at the magnificent Taroko Gorge

seeing in a relaxed atmosphere. Here are old shrines and temples, an aborigine tribe with its "King," "Queen" and "Princesses." There are fine hiking trails. Some other attractions are the 72-foot Buddha at Changhua, and Chung Hsing Village near Taichung, seat of the Taiwan Provincial Government.

4. The Central Range This is the "Switzerland of Taiwan," and a playground for the adventurous. In a matter of hours, you pass from tropical zone to the temperate and then to the subarctic. Alishan, 7,500 feet above sea-level, commands a panoramic view of the island. Here, you see aborigines in their original habitat, centuries-old trees, including a 3,000-year-old "Sacred Tree," and the fabulous sunrise over nearly 13,000-foot Yushan, the highest peak of the Far East. The 45-mile train ride from Chiayi up Alishan is a joy in itself. You have the choice of comfortable diesel trains or puffing coal-burners to thread your way through 56

tunnels and 226 bridges. For ski enthusiasts, the slopes of 11,000-foot Mt. Hohuan is a rare treat. In January and February, heavy snow turns the mountain into Southeast Asia's only ski resort.

5. Kaohsiung and Southern Taiwan Kaohsiung is Taiwan's largest port, and is fast becoming an industrial center. The River of Love runs through the city. Chengching Lake, a picturesque park complete with traditional Chinese bridges and pagodas, is in the suburbs. A short drive south takes you to Kenting Park and the Oluanpi lighthouse at the southern tip of the island, looking toward the Philippines. Tainan, old capital of Taiwan and seat of Dutch power in the mid-17th century, is a must for those with a mind for history. Here, two of the old Dutch forts still stand – Providentia in the heart of the thriving city and Zeelandia in the suburbs. It was at Zeelandia, then on the sea, that the Dutch surrendered to Koxinga and departed for the East



Mt. Hohuan – Southeast Asia's only ski resort



*Fabulous Chengching Lake,
with traditional Chinese bridges and pagodas*

Indies in 1661.

THESE ARE some of the natural scenery that have attracted millions of people in the last decade. But Taiwan has more to offer. For shoppers, there are exquisite handicrafts—wood carvings, coral jewelry, marble decorations, straw hats and handbags, embroideries and drawn-work. For gourmets,

there is a wide variety of Chinese cuisine, from Cantonese cooking to spicy Szechwan dishes, from vegetarian dinners to the exotic Mongolian hotpot.

Taiwan has something for everybody. And, you cannot help feeling the vitality of the land. Everyone is on the go. Everything is on the move.

Meet Some of Our Vigorous Young People

A GENERATION of young Chinese has created a new society with fresh, modern values. Here are some of the vigorous young men and women who set the trend for today.



Chi Cheng was voted the World Woman Athlete of 1970 by an international panel of sports writers. She has broken or tied 9 world track records and won

133 of 134 races in a two-year span.

A wizard at the Chinese chess game *Wei-chi*, better known as "Go" to Westerners, **Lin Hai-fung** is 29 and held the title of Meijin. Lin's perennial duels with the best of Japanese Go masters are followed with abated breath by millions.



Chen Chen won this year's Best Actress Award in the Asian Film Festival for her performance in *The Story of Ti-Ying*. At 22, she is at the threshold of a tremendous career.



"Lovable Mr. Lu", the British call 35-year-old golfer **Lu Liang-huan**, who came within a stroke of winning the championship from Lee Trevino at this year's British Open. He plays at the Piccadilly

World Match Play Championships in October.

Wang Chen Chih, or Sadaharu Oh, is the second person in the world's baseball history to make over 40 home-runs annually for seven consecutive years. Wang, who lives in Japan, has already made 400 home-runs and has his eyes set on breaking the world's record of 700.



Ko Chun-hsiung is one of the best loved actors in the Mandarin film world. Talented and hard-working, Ko won the Best Actor Award in the Asian Film Festival for his performance in *The Arch of Chastity*.

After winning at the Dmitri Mitropoulos Competition, **Helen Quach** became Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. She has conducted symphony orchestras in Australia, United States, Japan and the Philippines.



The 1960s were a decade of promise.
The 1970s will be a decade of fulfilment

Taiwan's Economy — a Man-made Miracle

IN THE PAST two decades, the Republic of China has rebuilt Taiwan's economy from the ruins of World War II to the second strongest in Asia. It has changed the basic economic structure of the island province — from predominantly agricultural to industry-oriented. Its international trade, long an import-surplus supported by massive U.S. aid, has chalked up encouraging results year after year with the latest balance showing a gain of US\$34 million.

To the 15 million people of Taiwan, this progress means a higher standard of living. Between 1960 and 1970, the number of radios and television sets rose from 63 to 110 per thousand persons, and fewer than one to 37 per thousand persons respectively; motor cycles and automobiles rose from 4 to 50 and 2 to 8 per thousand persons respectively. Daily intake of calories and protein went up from 2,390 to 2,665 units and 49 to 68.6 grams respectively. The number of schools increased from some 3,500 to about

5,000 during the same period.

The Republic of China's economic success in Taiwan is a man-made miracle. The province is not richly endowed with natural resources, is limited in arable land, and heavily dependent on imported raw material for its industries.

In the early 1950s, Taiwan was predominantly agricultural. But unlike many impatient developing nations which promulgated an all-out industrialization program at the expense of agriculture, the government decided to "develop industry through agriculture and expand agriculture through industry." It believed that in the overall national economy, the agricultural sector was not only a source of food, but also a source of investment capital, primary raw material and market for the then domestic-oriented industrial sector. Based on this analysis, a land-to-the-tiller reform was launched, which swiftly brought up agricultural production and consolidated social stability. Then, from 1953 to 1960, the

government promoted two four-year economic plans placing equal emphasis on agriculture and industry. By 1960, Taiwan was ready for a take-off into its intensified industrialization program.

The achievement of the past two decades encouraged economic planners of the Republic of China to look ahead. Their goal: a modern, fully industrialized nation with everyone living in freedom and prosperity, as conceived by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in his Principle of People's Livelihood.

Current plans aim to raise gross national product from 1970's US\$5.4 billion to US\$12 billion by 1980; national income from US\$4.3 billion to US\$9.6 billion; and per capita income from US\$292 to US\$516. To ensure success, the government has drawn up blueprints for various sectors of the economy.

Agriculture
High on the priority list is farm mechanization. The planners hope to raise productivity and offset the outflow of farm labor to industry through wider utilization of machinery. Rice will be de-emphasized and export cash crops, such as

banana, pear, orange, mushroom, asparagus, tea and silk, will be encouraged. Marketing techniques will be modernized to make farm products more competitive in the international market.

Industry The Republic of China will meet the challenges of the 1970s through industrial specialization. There will be a shift of emphasis from simple, labor-intensive processing industry to more advanced, sophisticated basic heavy industry. Electronics and precision instrument, petrochemical intermediates and end-products, steel and shipbuilding are among the industries encouraged.

Trade Two decades ago, trade amounted to only slightly more than one-fifth of the gross national product; today, it accounts for almost three-fifths. Being an



Farmers working on their land



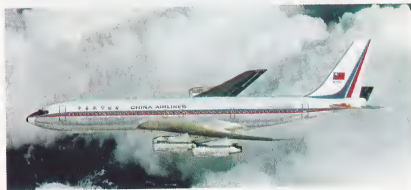
Electronics – one of Taiwan's fastest-growing industries



A modern housing development

island economy, Taiwan's agricultural and industrial developments have reached a state in which trade holds the key to further expansion. In the 1970s, special efforts will be directed at the development of new markets in Europe, Africa and Latin America, and the de-control of imports.

Communications Situated conveniently on one of the most heavily-traveled air and sea routes of the world, Taiwan looks to development of even wider supersonic civil aviation and fully containerized shipping. Plans to be materialized in this decade include an airport equipped to handle aircraft of the 1980s and a container terminal second to none in the Far East. China Airlines, flag carrier of the Republic of China which has grown from two beat-up PBV amphibious planes in the early 1960s to its present modern fleet of 28, will fly a worldwide network from Taipei.



Words, Our Living Heritage

by Lin Yutang

China's greatest English-language author has written thirty books in thirty years. At 76 he gives us the crowning achievement of his career, the *Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage**. It is the first major work on Chinese-English lexicography in forty years. This monumental work, first conceived two decades ago, was brought to fruition in Taipei, where Dr. Lin lives.

Here in Dr. Lin's own words are his reasons for compiling the dictionary.

THE IDEA of compiling a dictionary of the modern Chinese national language has engrossed my attention for decades. The need for a comprehensive and linguistically adequate dictionary of modern language is obvious, but in the case of Chinese, the compiler of a Chinese dictionary is confronted with the first question: which Chinese language, the classical or the vernacular, does

one intend to record?

I have always maintained that the Chinese living tongue should be treated as such as one of the modern languages.

This was not possible forty or fifty years ago. The literary or classical language was the established written medium, and the study of this classical medium was a scholar's occupation *par excellence*. The spoken tongue existed in the form of many more or less extensive dialects; there was no standard spoken Chinese. However, since the literary revolution

*to be published in 1972 by the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

of 1917, introducing the *paihua* vernacular as the written medium, the national language has slowly come into its own. Through long years of debate and discussion, the *Peiping* tongue has been established as the standard.

The scope of my dictionary is accurately defined by its title, *A Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage*. It includes all words and phrases that a modern reader is likely to encounter with in reading modern newspapers, magazines and books. The Chinese national language of today is vernacular in basic grammatical structure, but draws heavily on the past literary tongue in vocabulary.

One of the basic tasks my dictionary sets itself is to determine for the first time what are the Chinese words, and record their pronunciation as integrated polysyllabic units, and their parts of speech. This is based on the obvious fact which seems to have escaped many, that modern Chinese is largely polysyllabic. Eighty percent of words in the spoken tongue are bisyllabic.

All previous Chinese dictionaries centering upon the *Characters* as units of learning, neglecting to note the formation of a word as a *grammatical unit*. The classical language was largely monosyllabic, but this is certainly untrue of modern Chinese.

The recognition that many Chi-

nese words are polysyllabic has great implications. It blows away the academic myth that romanization of Chinese is impossible or would be unintelligible, a view held by many eminent sinologists. The collection of words in the present dictionary gives evidence of how few are the homonyms in the Chinese language. Freed from preoccupation with the monosyllabic characters, it can be seen clearly that the Chinese language has a grammar, and the words have each a part of speech or several parts of speech, as in any other language. It is difficult to assign part of speech to half a word like *sheng* (生), which could be *live, life, living, bear, born, uncooked or a person*; there can be no question that a complete word containing the syllable *sheng* like *shiansheng* (先生 teacher) is a noun, *shengcheng* (生成 born) is an adjective, *shenghuo* (生活 life) is again a noun, *shengde* (生的 uncooked) again an adjective.

"In a language such as Latin or German," says Bernhard Karlgren, "a reader who knows his grammar and who has a dictionary should be able to find out what every sentence means. . . . In Chinese, grammatical analysis is of much less help. The only thing which really helps is experience . . . a feeling for how the Chinese make up their sentences." I am forced to assert that the Chinese language has grammar, or laws of syntactical relationships; that every word has a part of speech defining its function in a grammatical sentence.

China's foreign aid program has turned marsh and jungle in Africa into arable land

Lighting the Way in Africa



"BEFORE Chinese technical assistance missions came to Gabon, all non-Negroes were known as whites. After we came, they called all people of the yellow race *Chinois*," says Du Peng-yu, who served as mission leader in Gabon. With a wry smile, he adds, "A Korean physician arrived in Gabon some months after the Chinese mission, and is known as *Chinois* to this day, no matter how hard he tries to explain that he is not Chinese!"

This is one of the many side-lights which illustrate the deep impression Chinese foreign aid programs have made abroad. The Republic of China, which has over 900 farm, medical and other specialist teams helping 23 African countries, began her foreign assistance program in Africa years before she became economically self-sufficient herself.

Food was Africa's major problem, and millions of people were undernourished. Rice was imported from as far away as Burma and the Philippines. And, Africans were not growing many kinds of vegetables. The Chinese, who have been remarkably successful in growing rice, vegetables and fruit in Taiwan, could not stand by and not do something about it.

The first demonstration team of 15 young farmers reached Liberia in November of 1961. The Chinese, working with local families, cleared and planted 296 acres of land 175 miles from Monrovia, the capital. Four months later, the first harvest yielded more than 3,500 pounds of rice per acre — six times the previous average in that area!

When word of the Chinese success spread, other countries asked for help. Libya has little lowland

Lin Yutang is the author of such international best-sellers as *The Importance of Living*, *My Country and My People* and *Moment in Peking*.



African farmers harvesting during a training session



Chinese adviser teaches farming techniques on the spot

for growing irrigated rice. The Chinese demonstrated methods of growing rice on "dry soil," on the very fringe of the Sahara. Five months later, an astounding crop of 4,400 pounds per acre was harvested.

Not long ago, Hou Hsin-chih went to Upper Volta with a team

of experts. Water shortage was the major problem there. Israelis and others who came to give help before the Chinese had built several reservoirs, but without any irrigation systems to make them useful. It was thought that the construction of irrigation systems was not possible in that hinterland coun-

try. But the Chinese built one at Boulby, which irrigates 80 hectares of land, and another at Lou-dia which irrigates another 120. With a well-organized farmer's association, Upper Volta rice farmers in these two areas confidently expect a per-hectare yield of five tons of rice at each harvest — an increase of nearly four times.

Hou's achievement amazed the Fund for European Development, which volunteered to join forces with the Chinese in building an irrigation network for Monky Reservoir, which is expected to be completed soon.

But there is an inevitable human factor involved in the success of China's foreign aid programs. "When others came to teach us how to farm, they made surveys and plans, then sat back in their offices and waited for us to report back," said a farmer of Chad. "The Chinese work with us side by side, and show us on the spot how things should be done and why. That makes a lot of difference."

Besides teaching and demonstrating farming know-how, the Chinese hold training classes. They demonstrate how to reclaim land, open irrigation ditches and nurse seedlings. They show how to weed, apply pesticides, protect crops against bad weather, and to

organize farmers' associations to handle marketing. The last has proved to be one of the most significant factors in improving the African farmer's living standard.

To women, Chinese missions teach poultry-raising, handicraft, and other methods of increasing family income. When the Chinese team has accomplished its task and moves on, it leaves behind farm machines made in Taiwan.

Reinforcing the work in Africa, Taiwan conducts a series of five-month agricultural seminars for African participants. Twelve classes have been held to date, and almost 600 Africans from 31 countries have returned home to apply what they learned.

The success of the agricultural assistance to Africa has led to programs in other parts of the world. Demonstration teams are working in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Assistance is not limited to farming. Chinese are also helping in civil engineering, medical care, veterinary, land reform, power development, light industry and sugar processing.

Free Chinese are eager to help others who want to help themselves. The only condition for Chinese aid is a willingness to learn, and determination to lead a better life.

